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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/615,732 | 07/08/2003 | Glen Keith Russell | 4164-307 | 1813 |

7590

02/23/2005

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205

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| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, KIM T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3713

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,732

Applicant(s)

RUSSELL ET AL. *Ch*

Examiner

Kim Nguyen

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/6/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of the amendment on 12/7/04 .

According to the amendment, claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 16, line 1, the claimed limitation "the remote communication link" lacks of antecedent basis. Further, the use of the word "further" in line 1 is not accurate because the remote communication link has not had any functionality disclosed yet.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charrin (US 2003/0014370).

a) As per claim 1 and 3, Charrin discloses a gaming system comprising two gaming components 202 and 204 (Fig. 2); each gaming component comprises a controller 210, 230 (Fig. 2), a communication interface 212, 232 (Fig. 2), and a communication link 203 (Fig. 2). Charrin does not explicitly disclose allowing the controllers of the gaming components to communicate peer to peer with other controllers of other gaming components. However, Charrin discloses the capability of transferring data between the components (paragraph 0042).

Further, allowing a communication on a peer-to-peer basis on different modules would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow communication between controllers of Charrin on a peer-to-peer basis in order to facilitate direct communication between controllers.

b. As per claim 2, Charrin discloses a game processing unit 208 (Fig. 2) (paragraph 0036).

c. As per claim 4, Charrin discloses a bill validator 204 (Fig. 2), and a card reader 202 (Fig. 2).

d. As per claim 5-6, Charrin discloses a link for transferring data between the bill acceptor 204 (Fig. 2) and the card reader 202 (Fig. 2) (paragraph 0042).

e. As per claim 8-10, adding or removing a component while power is on; providing power to a game component, and using IEEE 1394 link would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charrin (US 2003/0014370) in view of Gordon et al (US 2003/0064806).

As per claim 7, Gordon discloses a second communication link for communication between the components in the cabinet and components outside the cabinet (Fig. 2; lines 1-3 of paragraph 0033; and lines 1-3 of paragraph 0042). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a second link for connecting the components in the game machine of Charrin to an outside component in order to facilitate communication between different gaming system.

6. Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al (US 2003/0064806).

a. As per claim 11 and 13, Gordon discloses a gaming system comprising at least two gaming components (Fig. 5; lines 1-12 of paragraph 0040; lines 1-24 of paragraph 0035), each gaming component comprises a controller 304 (Fig. 3)

and a communication interface 308 (Fig. 3); a gaming component located outside the cabinet (Fig. 2; lines 1-3 of paragraph 0033; and lines 1-3 of paragraph 0042); an interior communications link for allowing communication between the gaming components in the cabinet (Fig. 2; lines 7-12 of paragraph 0040); an exterior communications link for allowing the gaming components in the cabinet to communicate with the gaming component outside the cabinet (Fig. 2; lines 1-3 of paragraph 0042); and a bridge (interface to outside world Fig. 4b). Gordon does not explicitly disclose arranging the gaming components for communicating with other gaming components in a peer-to-peer fashion without a host. However, Fig. 2 discloses at least two components 204 and 210 connected directly without a host (lines 7-10 of paragraph 0040; and lines 1-3 of paragraph 0042). Gordon further discloses that the gaming components can be connected to each other (last two lines of paragraph 0042; and lines 7-12 of paragraph 0040). Gordon obviously encompasses the obviousness of connecting the gaming components to each other peer-to-peer in order to facilitate direct connection between the components.

b. As per claim 12 and 14-16, implementing a game processing unit to gaming components, using IEEE 1394 back plane or cable communication bus, and providing power to an external device would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/7/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a) In response to applicant's argument in page 6, last three paragraphs, claim 1 does not claim peer-to-peer communication without a host as asserted. Charrin discloses peer-to-peer communication between the card reader 202 (Fig. 2) and bill acceptor 204 (Fig. 2).

b) Applicant's arguments in page 7 are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

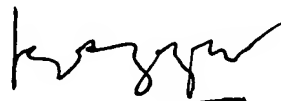
(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications; please mark
"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza II,
Arlington, VA Second Floor (Receptionist).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai, can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

kn
Date: February 12, 2005



Kim Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3713